India's position in UNESCO report

†*396. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the UNESCO report, the position of India has come down at world level during the past years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has fixed a target of achieving 85 per cent literacy rate in the country by 2012;

(d) if so, whether there is any possibility of achieving this target; and

(e) the reaction of Government in this regard and the UNESCO's point of view in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per UNESCO's Education for all (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2008, India ranks 105th with a composite Education for All Development Index (EDI) of 0.797. India ranked 99th with a composite EDI of 0.789 in the Report for the year 2007 and 101 st in the Report for the year 2006 with a composite EDI of 0.741. Thus, even though the rank in the Global Monitoring Report is lower, India has consistently increased its position on the scale of EDI.

(c) No, Sir. The target has been revised to 80%.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Ill-effects of CFLs

† *397. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Compact Flourescent Lamps (CFLs), being used at homes have been reported to be harmful by the TV and newspapers recently;

(b) if so, the efforts to be made by Government to prevent the use of CFLs, if they are harmful for human health;

(c) whether there is any system for warning or possibility of avoiding such incidents; and

(d) if not, how such news-items got published and the efforts made to clear this confusion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Use of Compact Flourescent Lamps (CFLs) at home or in any other building is not harmful. However, CFLs contain small quantities of mercury (2 mg to 10 mg) inside which has to be managed with care especially during the disposal of fused CFLs. It is also pertinent to mention that other home appliances such as thermometers and tube lights also contain 40 to 50 mg of mercury. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) has set up a Task Force for recommending safe management of mercury in such situations from a

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

host of home equipments like CFLs, tube lights, clinical thermometers, etc. In order to assist the Task Force, a technical committee under the chairman ship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was also constituted which has already submitted its report to the Task Force. The task force is addressing the following issues:—

- Administrative mechanism for the collection, transportation, treatment/recycling and disposal of the used lamps generated at consumer level.
- Legislative issues and Fiscal Incentives for effecting proper management of mercury at consumer level.
- Roles and responsibilities of various Government & non-Government agencies, FL Manufacturers, and consumers, etc.

Hindi Granth Academies

†*398. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of establishment of Hindi Granth Academies in various States and what has been done by each of them;

(b) the names of the Academies against which complaints have been received and what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) what steps would be taken to improve and cleanse the administration of such Academies, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Hindi Granth Academies (HGA) were set up for the purpose of preparation of Hindi textbooks including through translation from English textbooks and other teaching materials in Hindi language, required by the Universities and the HGAs have been attending to the above work since their inception. The HGAs are under the administrative control of the respective State/UT Govt. However, the Union Govt. through the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), New Delhi, provides some financial assistance to the HGAs under the University Level Book Production Scheme.

(b) A complaint was received regarding a book titled 'Bihar Ka Bhugol' which was examined by the CSTT in consultation with the Bihar Hindi Granth Academy where after a reply was sent to the complainant.

(c) The HGAs come under the administrative control of the respective State/UT Govt.

Measures for regulation of higher education

†*399. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme to check the arbitrariness of private schools and to control the intrusion of private and foreign institutions in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to give more powers to UGC and to constitute any Commission in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.